

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT PE
SUBJECT: ELECTION WEEKEND EVENTS

REF: LIMA 5352

1. SUMMARY: CAMPAIGNING ENDED EVENING JUNE 16 WITH TV PRESENTATION BY APRA, PSR AND PPC. UDP/FOCEP RALLY SCHEDULED THAT EVENING WAS PROHIBITED BY MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE BROKE UP ATTEMPTED MEETING. ELECTIONS CONDUCTED PEACEFULLY JUNE 18, WITH APPARENTLY HEAVY VOTER TURNOUT AND WITH LARGE NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE EVIDENT, MIDDAY WORLD CUP MATCH IN WHICH POLAND DEFEATED PERU 1-0 EVIDENTLY DID NOT AFFECT VOTE SIGNIFICANTLY. APRA AND PPC REPORT NO SIGNIFICANT PROBLEMS AND DEPORTATION OF PSR LEADER RODRIGUEZ FIGUEROA APPEARS TO BE SPECIAL CASE. UNOFFICIAL VOTE COUNT AND COMMENTARY CARRIED ON TV CHANNELS IN SPECIAL ELECTORAL PROGRAM. END SUMMARY.

2. CAMPAIGNING FOR ELECTIONS ENDED EVENING OF JUNE 16 WITH TV PRESENTATION BY PSR, PPC AND APRA, THE LATTER DONE IN COLOR (A FIRST FOR A POLITICAL PROGRAM HERE) AND FEATURING A BRIEF ADDRESS BY HAYA DE LA TORRE. TAPED PSR PROGRAM FEATURED TWO YOUNG AND WELL SPOKEN REPRESENTATIVES (MANUEL BENYA AND MARCIAL RUBIO) AS WELL AS PARTY SEC GEN ANTONIO MEZA CUADRA, WHO ALLEGEDLY IS UNDER DETENTION ORDER BUT SOMEHOW SLIPPED IN AND OUT OF TV STUDIO
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TO MAKE THE RECORDING. PSR REPRESENTATIVES TOOK STANDARD LINE OF PERSECUTED PARTY AND MEZA CUADRA SAID PARTY LEADER GENERAL RODRIGUEZ FIGUEROA HAD PLANNED TO APPEAR BUT DID NOT SINCE PROGRAM PRESUMABLY WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN AIRED. MEZ FAULTED CAPITALISM, U.S. AND "ITS INSTITUTION," THE IMF, FOR PERU'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS DURING RELATIVELY LOW KEY AND EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION.

3. BEDOYA REYES AND SEVERAL TOP PPC CANDIDATES GAVE STANDARD PITCH ABOUT ERRORS AND EXCESSES OF FIRST PHASE AND NEED TO RETURN TO PRIVATE INITIATIVE. BEDOYA ALSO APPEARED ON PAID PROGRAM LATER IN EVENING WITH A SHORTENED VERSION OF HIS JUNE 13 SPEECH AT PLAZA SAN MARTIN (LIMA 5233).

4. APRA'S PAID POLITICAL PROGRAM FEATURED STATEMENT BY HAYA DE LA TORRE (HIS FIRST TV APPEARANCE IN MANY YEARS; REPORTEDLY HE DOES NOT LIKE THAT MEDIUM) AND APRA LEADERS LUIS ALBERTO SANCHEZ, ANDRES TOWNSEND, AND RAMIRO PRIALE. HAYA, WHO SOUNDED SOMEWHAT WEAK AND AGED AND APPEARED UNCOMFORTABLE BEFORE THE CAMERA, STRESSED THE LONG HISTORY OF THE PARTY ("WE HAVE FOUGHT 50 YEARS TO FORM A NEW PERU") AND MADE A SPECIAL APPEAL, AS HE GENERALLY DOES, FOR THE SUPPORT OF YOUTH. SANCHEZ WAS PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE IN HIS CRITICISM OF PERU'S "VENAL" JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND THE NEED TO FIND LEGAL MEANS TO FORESTALL MILITARY COUPS AGAINST AN ELECTED GOVERNMENT. ON EVENING OF JUNE 16, UDP/FOCEP ATTEMPTED TO HOLD RALLY IN LIMA WHICH WAS BROKEN UP BY POLICE WITH TEAR GAS.

5. THE VOTE TURNOUT WAS HEAVY THE MORNING OF JUNE 18 AS VOTERS BEGAN FORMING AT THE POLLS HOURS BEFORE THE 7:00 A.M. OPENING. EMBOFFS WHO VISITS SEVERAL POLLING PLACES IN LIMA (GENERALLY PUBLIC SCHOOLS) FUND THE CROWDS GOOD SPIRITED WITH EVIDENT PARTICIPATION OF MANY YOUNG PEOPLE OF BOTH SEXES. MILITARY AND POLICE FORCES GUARDED THE POLLS BUT DID NOT APPEAR TO BE INTER-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FERING IN ANY WAY AND ONE ARMY COLONEL WAS SEEN HELPFULLY DIRECTING VOTERS TO THE RIGHT ELECTION TABLE. VOTING PREDICATABLY DROPPED OFF AT MIDDAY DURING THE PERU-POLAND SOCCER MATCH BUT CONTINUED IN THE AFTERNOON. A HALF HOUR BEFORE THE POLLS CLOSED AT 5:00 P.M., POLLING PLACES SEEMED TO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR WORK. DIRECTOR, AREQUIPA REPORTS VOTE WENT WELL; POLICE ALLEGEDLY STOPPED BNC SUTEP PLAN TO BLOCK POLLS.

6. PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ, IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES, VOTED SUNDAY MORNING NEAR NATIONAL PALACE AND HELD BRIEF PRESS CONFERENCE. HE NOTED THAT "IT IS OFTEN SAID THAT IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO HAVE A CONSTITUTION; THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO COMPLY WITH IT," AND THAT THE ASSEMBLY MUST THEREFORE ADJUST THE CONSTITUTION TO "PERUVIAN REALITIES." THE PRESIDENT CITED THE IMPORTANCE OF SIMULTANEOUSLY MEETING THE GOP'S POLITICAL TIMETABLE (HE AGAIN CITED THE 1980 DATE FOR THE TRANSFER OF POWER) AND RESOLVING THE COUNTRY ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

7. THE FIRST UNOFFICIAL RETURNS STARTED APPEARING BY 8:00 P.M. ON A SPECIAL COLOR PROGRAM CARRIED BY TWO TV CHANNELS. THE SHOW, A RATHER AMBITIOUS EFFORT TO COPY US-STYLE ELECTION NIGHT PROGRAMS USED TELEPHONE CONTACTS WITH REPORTERS THROUGHOUT

THE COUNTRY TO TALLY THEIR OWN NONOFFICIAL ESTIMES AND CONTINUED
BORADCASTING TO 4:00 A.M. PROGRAM ALSO FEATURED SOME ANALYSIS BY
"CONTACTO DIRECTO" DIRECTOR ALFREDO BARNACHEA (HIS PROGRAM RETURNS
NEXT SUNDAY) WHO FOCUSED ON FOCEP'S SURPRISING SHOWING AND HIS
PERSONAL CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPACT OF THE ELECTION ON BELAUNDE'S
AP. INTERVIEWS WERE HELD WITH VARIOUS POLITICAL FIGURES INCLUDING
APRA'S LUIS ALBERTO SANCHEZ, WHO CALLED FOCEP "NOT A PARTY BUT AN AN
ATTITUDE," AND CHARACTERIZED ITS TALLY AS A QUIXOTIC PROTEST VOTE
AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT AND IN SUPPORT OF FOCEP'S STRESS ON
HUMAN RIGHTS.

SANCHEZ EXPRESSED SATISFACTION FROM APRA'S POINT OF VIEW WITH THE
ELECTORAL OUTCOME WHICH ESTIMATED WOULD GIVE THE PARTY 36-38
SEATS IN THE ASSEMBLY. INTERESTINGLY, WHEN SANCHEZ WAS ASKED
ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE APRA-LED ASSEMBLY "LEGITIMIZING" THE
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MORALES BERMUDEZ PRESIDENCY, HE DID NOT RULE IT OUT. HE
CONSIDERED AJOINT CIVILIAN-MILITARY CABINET WITH PARTISAN
REPRESENTATION UNLIKELY, HOWEVER.

8. COMMENT: THE ELECTION EVIDENTLY CAME OFF QUITE SMOOTHLY,
ALTHOUGH THERE ARE INDICATION OF OCCASIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE
PROBLEMS (ONE TOWN IN THE JUNGLE DID NOT RECEIVE THE BALLOTS IN
TIME FOR INSTANCE) AND SOME SCATTERED MINOR DISTURBANCES.
NEITHER APRA NOT PPC HAS SO FAR REPORTED ANY SIGNIFICANT INTER-
FERENCE IN THE ELECTORAL PROCESS AND THE ARREST AND DEPORTATION
OF PSR LEADER RODRIGUEZ FIGUEROA ON ELECTION DAY (LIMA 5356)
IS THE ONLY CASE OF THIS NATURE OF WHICH WE ARE AWARE.
SHLAUDEMAM

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